

THE BEE HERDER

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www.MedinaBeekeepers.com



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Join the MCBA to hear a great lineup of live and virtual speakers. Start or renew your membership [online](#), or send in the membership form at the end of the newsletter.

Monday, May 15

Medina County District Library

210 S Broadway St, Medina, OH 44256

Meeting Room A and/or B

Topic: *Making Splits*

Presented by Larry Connor

Question and answer period begins at 6:30PM

Presentation 7PM-8:30PM

Larry Connor, leading beekeeper and noted author of many books on beekeeping will visit us **live** to share his knowledge about making splits, including the why and when to make splits.

Join us to learn more about making spring splits (or preparing for summer splits) to help achieve sustainable beekeeping in your bee yard.

We will also have our annual spring plant exchange.



Ten Minutes with the Bees

by *Paul Kosmos, MCBA President*

The Bee Yard in May

Swarms and Splits

It appears all the talk about a strong swarm season has proved to be right on. We have had a flood of swarm notices since Wednesday of last week. There were a couple of beauties, very large and only five or six feet off the ground!

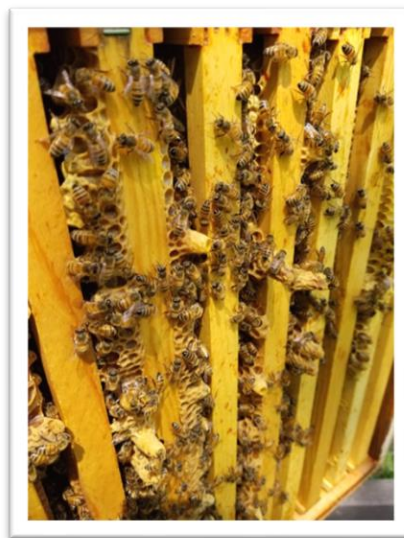


Beautiful swarm, only five feet up!

But they were gone before we could get there. With the nice weather, swarms should continue for a while. So get your gear together!

The other happening is calls about making splits. As you know, some beekeepers split their strong hives early to increase their number of hives. Others like to wait until they see Queen cells. Once you see Queen cells and you make a split you will have a new queen in about seven days.

One of the questions we often get is how often to check for swarm cells. It can be a lot of work and interfere with busy schedules. One method to make an inspection for swarm cells easier is to tip the upper deep up on end rather than removing the frames.



Top Box Tipped on Edge - Multiple Q Cells

Easy to see if you have Queen cells. If there are Queen cells, you can set the box down on the outer cover (upside down) angled on the corners so the cells do not get squished. The final step is to pick out the best cell to leave in the mother hive and the same for the split. Never remove all the cells unless you find the queen first.

Move the brood frames you want for the split with the bees – leave one frame with a Queen Cell. Then, shake bees from another brood frame into the split as they will need more bees and some may return to the mother hive.

Now you have a new hive!



UPCOMING EVENTS

World Bee Day

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Bldg. #25

19201 E Bagley Road Middleburg Heights, OH 44130

10AM-4PM

World Bee Day celebration raises awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. Proceeds from the \$2 donation will go towards the Honey Breakfast on November 17 for K-12 students in Euclid and Cuyahoga County.

For more information, visit

www.greaterclevelandbeekeepers.com

Lorain County Beekeeper's Association 29th-Annual Field Day

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Queen Right Colonies 43655 State Route 162

Spencer, Ohio 44275

10AM-4PM; registration starts at 9:30AM

Speakers include

- Charles Linder: Commercial Beekeeping
- Connie Skolnicky: Apitherapy
- Gene Gargas: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Parts I & II
- Randy Leiby: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Parts I & II
- John and Corrie: Youth Education Mini Hive Yard
- Peggy Garnes: Methods of Queen Rearing

For more information, visit the [Lorain County Beekeepers Field Day page](#).

July 2023 Fair Booth Cleanup

Monday, July 17, 2023

Medina County Fairgrounds

720 West Smith Rd, Medina OH 44256

6PM-7:30PM

Join us to prepare the fair booth for our annual participation in the 2023 Medina County Fair. MCBA has the best booth in the fair and this is when we start getting it ready for the show! All volunteers welcome!

Medina County Fair

July 31-Aug 6, 2023

Medina County Fairgrounds

720 West Smith Rd.

Medina, OH 44256

The 178th Medina County Fair is coming this summer! Review the [Fair Guide](#) for information on Bees, Honey, and Apiary products. Information forthcoming for Club members who intend to sell their products at fair. Department Sponsor: Richardson Farms

MCBA Annual Picnic

Monday, August 21, 2023

Buckeye Woods Park

6335 Wedgewood Rd (Rte 162)

Medina, OH 44256

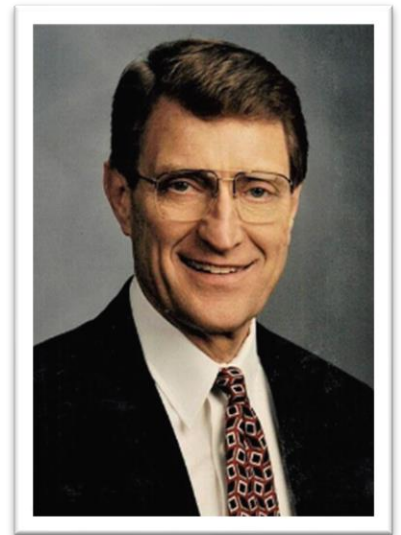
6PM-7:30 PM

Our MCBA Picnic is always a great time to visit with friends and talk about bees or whatever! Details forthcoming, save the date!

Telling the Bees

John Alan Root, age 90 of Sarasota, Florida, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 26, 2023, after a 23-year journey with Parkinson's Disease. He was born on February 17, 1933 in Akron, Ohio to the late Alan and Emilie (Myers) Root.

John was a 1950 graduate of Medina Senior High School, after which time he attended Ohio Wesleyan University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation, John moved to Texas where he served his country as a pilot in the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of Captain. In 1957 he completed his military service and moved back to Medina, Ohio with his young family. He became the fourth generation of the family business, The A.I. Root Company. John spent the last twenty years of his career at the Root Company serving as President & Chairman of the Board, officially retiring in 2008.



John was a true servant to his community. Most notably he cherished his time serving on the Medina City Council (1962-1976), the Medina General Hospital Board of Directors (1971-2008), the Board of Directors for Ohio Farmer's Insurance & Westfield Group (1986-2004), the National Candle Association Board of Directors (1989-2010), and the Medina Municipal Airport Advisory Commission (1989-2004).

Early in his life John garnered a deep love for aviation. This passion persisted through his entire life as a private pilot. During his "free time" John could be found at Medina Municipal Airport piloting his airplanes. A loving and kind man, John will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

John is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Elisabeth (Grotte) Root; children, Alan (Esther Morera) Root, Nanette (Harold) Waite, Brad (Kathryn) Root; grandchildren Meredith (David) Gilpin, Christopher (Ashley) Waite, Crystal (Jeremy) Doyle, Alex (Abby Araujo) Root, Kyle (Morgan Moritz) Root, Andrew Root, Emilie Root; great-grandchildren, Claire, Abigail, Evan, Samuel, Hank, Josiah, Owen, Oliver, Elijah, Amelia; siblings, Elizabeth Judkins, Stuart (Diana) Root. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alan and Emilie Root.

A memorial service for John will be held at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at the Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational, 217 E Liberty St., Medina, OH 44256. The service will be livestreamed for anyone that is not able to attend in person.

John will be privately laid to rest at Spring Grove Cemetery in Medina.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Continuum Hospice, 5589 Marquesas Circle, Suite 202 Sarasota, FL 34233.

Thanks to member **Kym Lucas** for this interesting article
from Bee Culture:
[How California Teenager Rory Hu's Research on Bees' Memory is Helping Avert Colony Collapse Disorder](#)

MEMBER PHOTOS



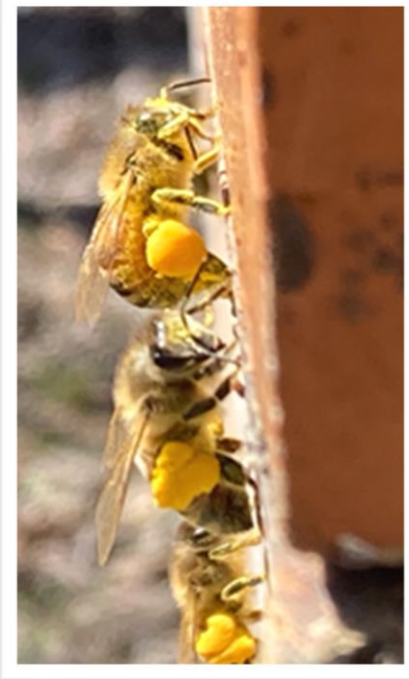
Thanks to member **Casey Bloomfield** for sharing this photo of a newly installed hive.



Club member **George Rasch** installing a new package.



Member **Kym Lucas** shared this photo of recently laid eggs.



Member **Kym Lucas** shared this photo of workers bringing in pollen.

Do you have photos you'd like to share?
Email them to
deanna.rasch@gmail.com
for inclusion in the newsletter.

Spring Hive Removal

By Kym Lucas

On a cold, damp April morning, a small group of MCBA members joined **Peggy Garnes** for a hive removal at an outbuilding in Medina County Park system's Buffalo Creek Retreat. Jacketed, veiled, gloved, and grateful for the opportunity, we came ready to witness, assist, and learn. As it turned out, the bees had already absconded, rendering our safety precautions unnecessary. Still, the hive needed removed despite its lack of inhabitants. According to park representatives, swarms had settled in the building again and again, requiring many previous hive evictions.



As beekeepers know, honey bee actions are often regulated by pheromones. And the scent trails left behind in a hive's previous location can be strong enough to continue to repeatedly attract new swarms to the same place.

Because of this, Peggy emphasized how crucial it is for the beekeeper to be absolutely thorough in her removal of every bit of the hive, as well as in sealing all possible entrances. The aim should be to do the job properly, thus ensuring there's no need for follow-up hive removals.



On this occasion, as you see from the pictures, there was plenty of comb, propolis, and debris for us each to contribute by doing some scraping!

In the process, we — and by *we*, I mean Chris Fullerton and Peggy — discovered the lack of bees didn't mean the hive was completely devoid of life. Mice eat pollen, and apparently drawn by the ready food source, one had settled into the wall to raise her young. The photo (left) shows some of the detritus from the nest.

Our morning was enlivened by their leaps to escape our prodding tools.

I daresay theirs was, too.



29th Annual Field Day

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Sponsored by Lorain County Beekeepers Association & QRC
www.loraincountybeekeepers.org



A Day in the Life of a Commercial Beekeeper
Charles Linder

Rain or Shine Event • Free Event for Everyone!

Time has flown and it is yet time again for the Greatest Field Event this side of the Mississippi!

The 29th Annual Field Day will go down in the history books as a day filled with Masters in their class, outstanding in their fields of time spent, education gleaned and success in beekeeping for years.

From the keeper with one colony to the commercial beekeeper with 3000+. An event where we all come together annually see old friends, remember those that are no longer with us and enjoy meeting new ones. "Come as a stranger, leave as a friend." For this very reason, our lineup of speakers for the day will cover a wide range of topics.

A lot has been stated over time on TV, in the print media, and in beekeeping publications as well about agriculture/farming and its negative impact on the environment and beekeeping. Unfortunately, because those in agriculture/farming are a smaller group and have a limited voice, as a consequence, they are not heard. The same could be said for the commercial beekeeper and for those very reasons we have **Charles Linder** as our featured speaker. Charles is a commercial beekeeper, producer of the Bee Bus, the Pro Nuc box, agriculture equipment engineer, and lifelong farmer. He will share his journey as a commercial beekeeper with a day-by-day perspective. All

beekeepers are in agriculture whether you want to be or not, and we should not be closed minded to those we work with. Now seated on the Board of Directors of The American Beekeeping Federation, representing commercial beekeepers special interest groups.



We are also fortunate to have **Peggy Games**, OSBA President. Peggy is a beekeeper with 20+ yrs. experience keeping 140 colonies, queen breeder and nuc producer, traveling speaker for OSBA and past Western Reserve Representative.

Peggy will do an open hive, one hour class on, **Methods of Queen Rearing**.

LOCATION: Queen Right Colonies
43655 State Route 162, Spencer, OH 44275
Tel: 440-647-2602 • queenrightcolonies.com

LUNCH STAND AVAILABLE



Gene Gargas and Randy Leiby,

productive and successful beekeepers, both work closely with new class members to see that they get a great start in their beekeeping adventure. These classes are necessary for those who are getting started in beekeeping.



Connie Skolnicky, Apitherapist, will be with us too. We have always had a BVT specialist with us at Field Day, a very interesting program. Learn the importance of Bee Venom Therapy.



John Rose and Corrie Marquis will be our Youth Education Program instructors for Field Day.

Taking the Youth class on an adventure thru our mini colonies. There will also be a scavenger hunt on Field Day for the young in age not the young at heart...watch for the signs.



So be sure and mark your calendar, bring your family and friends as the farm environment makes for a wonderful, relaxed and enjoyable day for all.

Field Day is a free event filled with classes, speakers, games, raffles, door prizes and more.

AGENDA - WEATHER PERMITTING

9:30 am Registration/Coffee/Tea/Donuts
10:00 am Welcome
10:15 am Charles Linder in the Big tent
11:30 am Lunch
12:00 pm Alpaca Shearing & Scavenger Hunt



Field Events 12:30 to 1:30 pm

- Connie Skolnicky: "Apitherapy" in the Big tent
- Gene Gargas: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Part 1
- Randy Leiby: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Part 1
- John and Corrie Youth Education Mini Hive Yard

1:45 to 2:45 pm

- Peggy Games: Methods of Queen Rearing
- Gene Gargas: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Part 2
- Randy Leiby: My 1st Year In Beekeeping Part 2
- John and Corrie Youth Education Mini Hive Yard

3:00 pm

Closing Remarks & Contest & Scavenger Hunt Winners Announced

For more information visit: loraincountybeekeepers.org and queenrightcolonies.com or follow us on Facebook.

2022 MCBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

MCBA offers webinars and lectures, a monthly newsletter, the opportunity to sell honey at the county fair, and email updates. \$20 for emailed or \$25 for a printed, mailed newsletter. Membership includes one family member in activities other than voting.

Renew your membership [online here](#) or complete the form below, make a check payable to **Medina County Beekeepers Association**, and mail to Medina Beekeepers, PO BOX 1353, Medina, Ohio 44258.

Membership Form - Please complete so that we have current roster information for the newsletters!

Member Name _____

Email address (please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone # _____ (Optional) # of colonies _____